

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-03 COA-02 COME-00 CG-00 EB-11

INT-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DLOS-06 FEA-02

DRC-01 /068 W

----- 060664

R 231315Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1462

INFO AMCONSUL BELEM

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 532

PLEASE PASS AMB CRIMMINS ARA/LA/BR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, BR

SUBJECT: SHRIMP FISHING AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 12893

1. APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTRY NOW TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS
ON SHRIMP AGREEMENT EXTENDING BEYOND JUNE 30 WOULD NOT
BE USEFUL.

2. FONMIN SUPPORTED SIX MONTHS EXTENSION AS STRICTLY
INTERIM MEASURE WHICH WOULD LEAVE FUNDAMENTAL DECISIONS
TO NEW GOVERNMENT. (BRASILIA 8313, PARAS 3 AND 6)
GOB HAS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT PROBLEM WITH JAPAN WHICH
HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR SHRIMP AGREEMENT AND WHICH DESIRED
TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MEDICI ADMINISTRATION.
FONMIN RESPONSE WAS THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE
NO UTILITY BECAUSE IT COULD NOT COMMIT THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

3. NEITHER THE FOREIGN MINISTER NOR HIS DEPUTY EXPECT
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TO BE SERVING IN BRASILIA WITH THE GEISEL TEAM. SAME

IS TRUE FOR SENIOR MEMBERS OF OTHER AGENCIES WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SHRIMP FISHING. IN ADDITION MEDICI ADMINISTRATION WHENEVER POSSIBLE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CAREFUL TO AVOID COMMITTING NEW GOVERNMENT TO SPECIFIC COURSES OF ACTION.

4. IF WE WERE TO MAKE REQUEST TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS NOW, FONMIN WOULD STATE THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. EMBASSY REALIZES THAT TIME FRAME IS SHORT, ONLY THREE AND ONE-HALF MONTHS, FROM MARCH 15, WHEN NEW GOVERNMENT ASSUME POWER, UNTIL JUNE 30, WHEN AGREEMENT EXPIRES. WE MADE THIS POINT WITH FONOFF WHEN WE PRESSED FOR EXTENSION OF ONE YEAR RATHER THAN SIX MONTHS. WE STATED THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME PRIOR TO JUNE TO SETTLE IN, EXAMINE POLICIES, AND MAKE DECISIONS. PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, HOWEVER, WAS NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND SIX MONTHS EVEN THOUGH FONMIN OFFICERS ADMITTED THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PRESSED FOR TIME.

5. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE REQUEST NEGOTIATIONS FOR SHRIMP AGREEMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE. IF THERE IS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT BEFORE JUNE 30 SHOULD REQUEST ANOTHER INTERIM EXTENSION. WE REALIZE THAT SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION PRESENTS PROBLEMS FOR THE INDUSTRY BECAUSE JUNE 30 IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FISHING SEASON, BUT WE SEE NO OTHER REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES. TUCH

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